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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Ruler and redeemer, creator and sustainer, we pause at the beginning of our labors to acknowledge Your majesty. Because of You, we live and move and breathe and prosper. You shower us with undeserved blessing, like a shepherd with his flock. You lead us to green pastures and beside still waters.

As our Senators and staffs do liberty's work today, stand with them. Give them prudence and discretion for their task. Remind them that if You are for us, neither demons nor deviants can prevail.

Help us to focus on today's challenges and trust You to take care of our past and future. Transform discord into harmony and hasten the day when peace will reign. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have a brief period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the minority and the final 15 minutes under the control of the majority.

Following that time, the Senate will resume consideration of the pending resolution regarding Senate intelligence and Homeland Security oversight reform. Our whips are here again today to manage that resolution throughout the day. They will be able to update Members shortly in terms of expectations over the course of the day. I hope Members come forward with their amendments so we can finish this important resolution today.

I remind everyone that last night we filed a cloture motion on that resolution with the purpose of ensuring that we complete consideration of the reform resolution this week. That is the goal that was set out actually weeks ago by the Democratic leader and myself, the leadership on both sides of the aisle. Again our purpose was not in any way to get Senators cut off on their ability to offer amendments, but given our objective of departing tomorrow, we do need to work expeditiously on this legislation which we absolutely must and will finish.

As my colleagues know, rule XXII requires that first-degree amendments be

filed at the desk no later than 1 o'clock today. At that point in time we should have a better idea as to how to proceed with the resolution over the course of the afternoon.

In addition to completing the pending reform resolution, we expect the House to act on the FSC/ETI or JOBS conference report today. Real progress was made yesterday. As we all know, the conference completed its action and the House will address the conference report today. Once they address it, we will be able to address it. We will turn to that conference report later today, late today.

I hope we can reach an agreement for debate on that privileged conference report. However, similar to the current bill, if necessary, we would have to file cloture. I hope that is not the case. There has been a lot of discussion over the last several days and I hope that discussion continues and that people do not force us to file cloture.

Again, the leadership on both sides of the aisle agrees and has set out the objective of finishing the FSC legislation before we close out our business.

We have a lot to do. We would also consider any other conference report that does become available during this period.

I thank my colleagues.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REFORM ACT

A brief comment on action yesterday. Once again, I congratulate the Chair and ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee for a tremendous effort. A lot of the other committees participated directly through their chairmen and ranking members. Yesterday, we proved the Senate could act very deliberately but expeditiously on a very important bill, a bill that represents the most dramatic and significant reform of our intelligence community in half a century. We delivered that product yesterday. It has been an effort underway for months and months, most significantly since July, the 9/11 Commission Report release date, but which proceeded

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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